

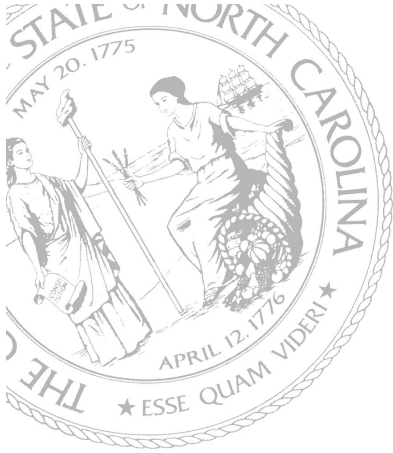


Division of Community Assistance Community Planning Program

Joseph D. Crocker

Assistant Secretary for Community Development
NC Department of Commerce

November 5, 2009



Mission

To provide aid to North Carolina counties, municipalities, and organizations through economic development, strategic and infrastructure planning, growth management, housing and community development.



Agency History

- 1957 Founded by the NC General Assembly
 - Originally part of Dept. of Conservation and Development
 - 1973 Division renamed DCA
 - 1978 Part of Natural Resources and Community Development
 - 1989 Became part of Department of Commerce (g.s.143B-432)



Division Organizational Chart

Department of Commerce

Division of Community
Assistance

Community
Development
Block Grant

Community
Planning
Program

NC Main
Street
Program



Community Planning Program

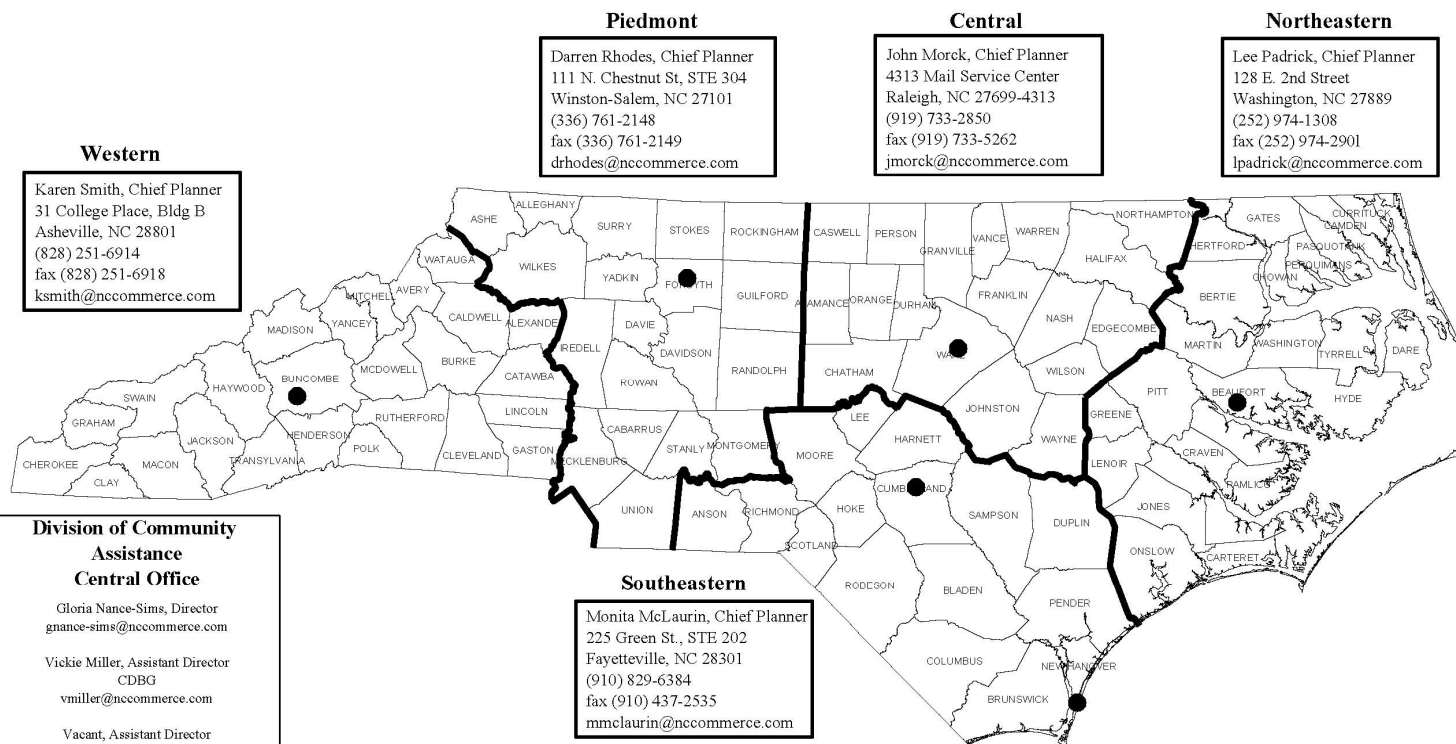
- 5 Regional Offices
- Offices staffed by a chief planner, senior planner and community development planners with a variety of specialties.
- 3 Offices provide GIS services



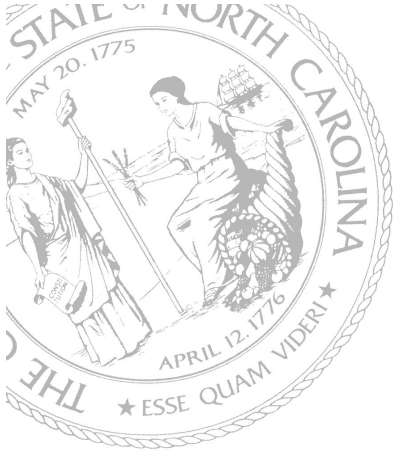
Regional Offices

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Division of Community Assistance

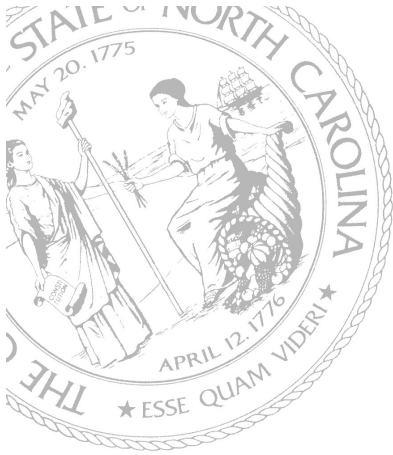


Map Current as of 10/2009

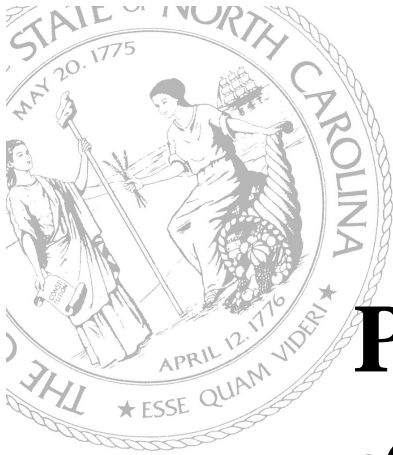


Clients & Partners

- Local Governments
- State Agencies (NCDOT, DENR, etc.)
- Assistance Agencies
 - NC Rural Center
 - Councils of Government
 - Handmade in America



Services Provided



Growth Management

Plans and Ordinances

- **Comprehensive & Land Use Planning**

Regional offices work with small communities, often on the urban fringe with limited staff and resources

Recent examples

- **Oxford Comprehensive Plan**

The plan was the first ever completed for Oxford. The effort was a joint collaboration between the main street manager, planning director and a citizen's committee.

- **Mt. Gilead Land Use Plan**

Innovative community driven process resulting in a commendation by the town board.



Growth Management

- **Zoning & Subdivision Ordinances**

Regional offices work with rural communities to:

- Develop new codes
- Modernize existing codes
- Review local codes for statutory compliance

- **Annexation Studies**

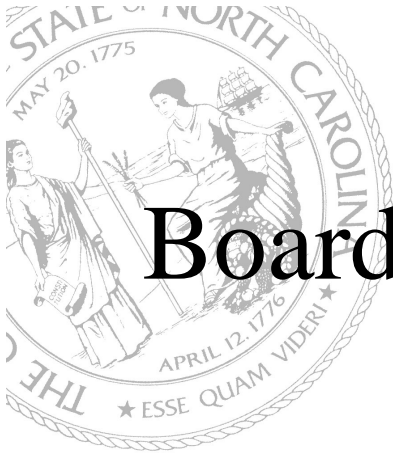


Strategic planning for economic and community development

Regional offices work with local governments to establish a community vision and help define shared goals while saving scarce resources through targeted actions

Recent examples

- **Garysburg Strategic Plan** – Helped town establish economic priorities to make more efficient use of budgeting and grant requests
- **NCSTEP Program Support** – Under contract to Rural Center, assisted towns in eastern NC and piedmont with economic strategic plans. Acted as coach in Surry County



Board Training and Group Facilitation

- Retreat facilitation

Northeast regional office has facilitated City of Washington retreats

- Elected and appointed board training

Western Regional Office has partnered with Western Carolina University to provide regional planning board workshops



Downtown Revitalization Assistance

Small Town Main Street Program Support

- Program provides design, promotion and economic analysis
- Planning Staff helps extend capability of program

Swansboro Downtown Renaissance Study

Northeast Regional Office staff worked with the Town of Swansboro to assist with the development of a plan for their downtown waterfront area. The study area includes the waterfront, the downtown commercial area, and the nearby historic residential district.



Regional Planning Initiatives

- Fort Bragg Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) & Sustainable Sand Hills Land Use Team
 - DCA provided staff support and facilitation
 - EPA grant funded a regional GIS Analyst housed at DCA
- Linking Lands and Communities

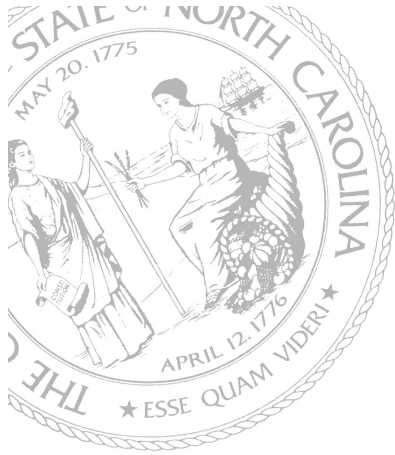
Four county mountain planning effort led by Land of Sky COG

 - DCA Staff providing GIS support and team leadership



21st Century Communities Program

- Program dedicated to helping counties in need with economic development strategic planning
- DCA community planning provided initial staff support to program
- Three planners dedicated to 21CC now housed at DCA



Questions?